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REMARKS

Claims 1 to 24 are pending. No claims are allowed.
Claims 1 to 11 are canceled and claims 16 to 24 are new.

1. Claims 1 to 11 are drawn to a bonding pad (Group I) and claims 12 to 15 are directed to a method for connecting an electrical energy storage device to an implantable medical device (Group II). The Examiner indicates that restriction for the purpose of examination is proper because "the bonding pad features can be done without using securing the terminals and the contact wall." The Applicants' attorney is not entirely clear what this stilted phrasing of the Examiner's reasoning means. It is surmised that the structure of the bonding pad is independent of it having a contact wall and being used to contact to a terminal. The Applicants, therefore, elect to prosecute claims 12 to 15 and to cancel claims 1 to 11, without traverse.

2. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Sikorski et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,522,861). Sikorski et al. describes a hermetic housing for an implantable medical device. A molded shroud 10 surrounds the device housing and supports a connector module for connecting a conductor between the medical device and the body being assisted. The connector module has a bore 41 aligned with a connector block 50 for receiving the

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conductor. A setscrew 56 is threaded into an opening disposed normal to the bore 51 through the block. That way, the setscrew retains the conductor in place received in the module bore 41 and the connector block bore 51. With this construction, the block body along with the setscrew completely surrounds the periphery of that portion of the conductor received in the bore 51 and the block 50.

Independent claim 12 has been amended to set forth that the terminal lead has a longitudinal axis. When the terminal lead is received and secured in the recess of the bonding pad, a first portion radiating from a point along the longitudinal axis of the lead is in contact with the recess while a second portion radiating from the point along the longitudinal axis, but angled with respect to the first portion is exposed and not in contact therewith. This overcomes the terminal lead being completely surrounded and in a contact relationship with the member providing the recess, such as the block 50 and bore there through of the cited Sikorski et al. patent.

Accordingly, in its amended form, independent method claim 12 is believed to neither be anticipated by Sikorski et al. nor obvious in light of its teachings.

Reconsideration of this rejection is requested.

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3. Claims 13 to 15 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sikorski et al. As discussed in section 2 above, amended independent claim 12 is believed to be patentable over this prior art patent. Accordingly, claims 13 to 15 are allowable as hinging from a patentable base claim.

Reconsideration of this rejection is requested.

4. Claims 16 to 21 are new. They are similar to 3, 5, 6, 9, 10 and 11, respectively, and further define the method of amended independent claim 12. As such, they are believed to be patentable as hinging from a patentable base claim.

New dependent claim 22 is directed to various materials for the terminal lead, and is also allowable as hinging from patentable base claim 12.

New independent claims 23 and 24 are believed to be patentable as they include many of the patentable structures and method steps set forth in amended independent claim 12.

5. The prior art made of record, but not relied upon has been reviewed. However, it is not believed to be more relevant than the cited prior art.

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It is believed that claims 12 to 24 are in condition
for allowance. Notice of Allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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